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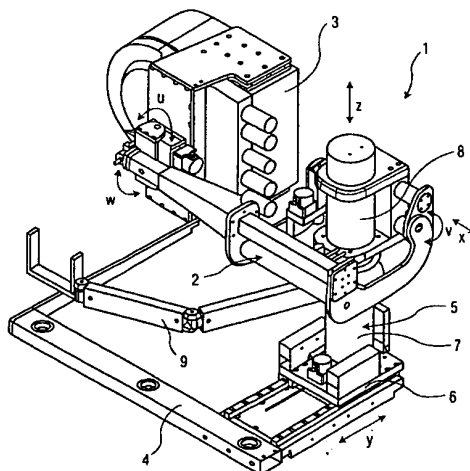
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(54) Title: TEST HEAD POSITIONING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A positioning apparatus for positioning a test head for testing electronic components is provided. The positioning apparatus includes an outer cylinder and a support coupled to the outer cylinder for supporting the test head. The positioning apparatus also includes a piston arranged within said outer cylinder such that the piston and the outer cylinder define a fluid compartment within the outer cylinder. The positioning apparatus also includes a pressure regulator for maintaining a pressure within the fluid compartment such that the test head may be suspended in a substantially weightless position, the substantially weightless position being adjustable in a vertical direction. The positioning apparatus also includes a lifting device for raising and lowering the outer cylinder. The lifting device includes a threaded drive mechanism coupled to the piston. The positioning apparatus also includes a drive apparatus for operating the threaded drive mechanism to move the test head to a predetermined position.